

STRUCK BY FALLING/FLYING OBJECTS

A SAFETY TALK FOR DISCUSSION LEADERS

This safety talk is designed for discussion leaders to use in preparing safety meetings.

Set a specific time and date for your safety meeting. Publicize your meeting so everyone involved will be sure to attend.

Review this safety talk before the meeting and become familiar with its content. Make notes about the points made in this talk that pertain to your workplace. You should be able to present the material in your own words and lead the discussion without reading it.

Seating space is not absolutely necessary, but arrangements should be made so that those attending can easily see and hear the presentation.

Collect whatever materials and props you will need ahead of time. Try to use equipment in your workplace to demonstrate your points.

DURING THE MEETING

Give the safety talk in your own words. Use the printed talk merely as a guide.

The purpose of a safety meeting is to initiate discussion of safety problems and provide solutions to those problems. Encourage employees to discuss hazards or potential hazards they encounter on the job. Ask them to suggest ways to improve safety in their area.

Don't let the meeting turn into a gripe session about unrelated topics. As discussion leader, it's your job to make sure the topic is safety. Discussing other topics wastes time and can ruin the effectiveness of your safety meeting.

At the end of the meeting, ask employees to sign a sheet on the back of this talk as a record that they attended the safety meeting. Keep this talk on file for your records.

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NOTE TO DISCUSSION LEADER:

One of the most effective ways to communicate safety to your group is to use examples of near misses or injuries employees have suffered caused by falling or flying objects in their areas. Try to tailor your safety talk to the equipment and surroundings where your group works. Below are specific situations in general industry that illustrate how to avoid injuries caused from falling and flying objects.

CRANES AND HOISTS

- People who work in areas where cranes-and hoists are routinely used should always wear head protection. Always look up to see if a crane or hoist is moving a load. Avoid working underneath loads being moved and warn co-workers from entering the dangerous area under the load.
- Inspect cranes and hoists routinely to see that all components of the crane and hoist system, such as wire rope, lifting hooks and chains, are in good condition. Always attach the proper material handling equipment to a crane or hoist hook to lift the load safely. These lifting devices should be checked routinely to see that they are in good condition so objects will not fall from them. Note the lifting capacity of the crane or hoist and do not exceed it.

STORAGE SAFETY

- Objects should be stored safely to prevent them from falling. If shelves or storage racks are used, check them for defects so they will not collapse and cause their contents to fall. Store heavy and bulky objects close to the floor.
- Lighter and smaller objects should be stored higher. Position objects securely on shelves or racks so they will not fall. Watch for vibrating equipment in the area that may cause objects to fall from storage containers. Some racks and shelves should be secured to the floor, ceiling or wall so they will not tip over.

PERFORMANCE OF OVERHEAD WORK

There are special precautions that should be taken when performing overhead work. If overhead construction is being done where building materials can fall, cordon off the area and post warning signs to prevent people from entering the danger zone. When people are working together, such as one person on a scaffold and the other person at the base of the scaffold, the person on the scaffold should secure all tools and materials so they will not fall and hit the person below. The scaffold should also be secured. The person working below should wear personal protective equipment, such as a hard hat, to prevent serious injury.

GRINDING

- Before starting a grinding operation inspect the guards on the grinder to be sure they are securely fastened and properly adjusted. Proper guarding will help protect the operator from flying particles of the grinding machine, as well as flying particles from the object being ground. Eye and face protection is essential for protection from flying particles generated during a grinding operation. A face shield should be worn and it is recommended that safety glasses be worn under the face shield to protect the eyes.

MACHINING

Machines should be set up so that the object being machined is properly secured in the machine and will not fly out when the machine is turning. Check all machine guards to see they are in place, secure, and working properly. Guards help prevent chips from flying into the surrounding area, and prevent the tooling and the object being machined from flying out of the machine if a malfunction occurs. Safety glasses, face shields, or goggles must be worn where machines cause particles to fly through the air, such as chips from a lathe. Face shields should always be worn with other eye protection.

CLEANING WITH COMPRESSED AIR

- Cleaning with compressed air can be extremely dangerous if precautions are not taken. Compressed air can cause particles to fly through the air with great force and cause serious injury. Compressed air used for cleaning should be reduced to less than 30 p.s.i. and should only be used when effective chip guarding is used and personal protective equipment is worn. Never clean clothing with compressed air.

NOTE TO DISCUSSION LEADER:

Discuss the situations in this talk as they relate to your group's examples of near misses or injuries that they have suffered as a result of being struck by falling or flying objects in your plant, and how to prevent them from happening in the future.